

SHIP'S HISTORY
USS HAVEN

The U.S.S. HAVEN, a Navy Hospital Ship, was originally built for the Maritime Commission as a C4 type vessel. In 1944 the Navy Department took her over for conversion to a modern hospital ship. The HAVEN was commissioned on May 5, 1945. She joined the fleet on June 16, 1945, sailed for Pearl Harbor, and on July 23, she sailed for San Francisco, California, where her 691 patients, the majority of whom were neuropsychiatric and tuberculosis cases, were disembarked.

The HAVEN returned to Pearl Harbor where she was moored when World War II hostilities ceased on August 13, 1945. The following day she sailed for Ulithi, Caroline Islands. However, she was diverted to Okinawa, Ryuku group where she arrived August 28, and anchored in Buckner Bay, Okinawa. During the remainder of 1945, the HAVEN was employed processing and hospitalizing and transporting about 10,000 ex-prisoners of war from prison camps of Kyushu.

The HAVEN arrived June 23, 1946, at Bikini, Atoll, Marshall Islands. During "Operation Crossroads" the ship handled hospitalization of personnel attached to Task Force ONE in addition to its special mission. While at Bikini the HAVEN assumed an important role in the operation as it carried the control group which determined the safety factors in the experiments.

Upon completion of inactivation, the U.S.S. HAVEN(AH-12) was towed to San Diego, California and placed in an inactive status on 1 July 1947 where she remained until the fateful sinking of her sister ship, the USNS BENEVOLENCE (T-AH-13) on 25 August 1950. On 27 August 1950, the U.S.S. HAVEN was towed to Long Beach, California and was recommissioned at the U.S.S. HAVEN (T-AH*12) on 15 September 1950. It should be mentioned that the majority of medical officers and hospital corpsmen, comprising the staff of the hospital in the HAVEN, were survivors of the ill-fated BENEVOLENCE.

The HAVEN departed from the continental limits of the United States for the Far East on 25 September 1950. Upon arrival in Yokosuka, Japan on 13 October, and reporting under the operational control of Commander of Naval Forces, Far East, the vessel was ordered to Inchon, Korea, arriving there on 18 October 1950.

About one week later, the HAVEN began receiving patients of the armed forces of the United Nations in volume and acted as a base hospital for the next six weeks. During the period there was a daily average census of 530 patients. During the above period, and due to the minimal resistance offered by the North Korean Communists, casualties were unusually light in spite of the offensive operations being conducted by the United Nations forces. A high census of 778 patients was reached on 19 November 1950, leaving only 18 empty beds available in the hospital.

As the Communists were on the offensive at this time and had reached the outskirts of Seoul in early January, and inasmuch as the United Nations forces were retreating south, the city of Inchon was fired and abandoned on 6 January 1951. On this date, the HAVEN and three rocket ships, the only remaining United Nations vessels moored at Inchon Harbor, departed the area for Pusan, Korea. The HAVEN having been moored there for a continuous period of eighty days.

Upon arrival in Pusan on 8 January 1951, and after an exchange of patients with Army Medical Facilities in this area, the HAVEN was ordered to Yokohama and Yokosuka, Japan. After nine days of rest and recreation at Yokosuka, the ship was ordered to Sasebo, Japan to act as a station hospital for units of the United Nations Fleet. The HAVEN remained in Sasebo until 4 February when an urgent message was received ordering the vessel to Pusan to augment the medical facilities of a sister hospital ship, U.S.S. CONSOLATION. Casualties were very heavy during the Communist offensive and about 700 patients were admitted during the short stay here. After only nine days, the HAVEN was ordered once again to Inchon, Korea arriving there 16 February 1951.

The number of patients received here was negligible because the United Nations Forces were rebuilding the ruins of the city and port facilities which have been previously destroyed or demolished when the United Nations Forces retreated in January. The total daily patient strength never exceeded 120, and very little medical activity was experienced during a stay of six weeks. Two reasons for the small patient load were due to the limited number of United Nations personnel on duty in the Inchon area, and the fact that the Communists controlled the hills surrounding Kimpo Airport prevented ambulance planes from ferrying patients to the Inchon area where they could be evacuated to the HAVEN.

During the second stay at Inchon, one noteworthy but saddening incident was that on 17 March, a truckload of Republic of Korea soldiers was struck by a land mine near Seoul; and nineteen of these soldiers were seriously injured and brought to the HAVEN at about 1900. Three of these soldiers were dead on arrival and another died approximately six hours later. The remaining fifteen were either returned to duty or evacuated to a Korea military hospital for further treatment and ultimate disposition.

During the stay in Yokohama, on 12 April 1951, the HAVEN was placed under the administrative control of Commander Service Force, Pacific and was designated as the U.S.S. HAVEN (AH-12), removing the control of MSTIS, Pacific, for administrative purposes, of hospital ships.

Upon returning to Pusan on 26 April 1951, the Communistic offensive had reached terrific proportions, and the casualties to United Nations Forces were high. Many of these cases required immediate surgery and were of a very serious nature. The surgical service worked around the clock and the operating room staff was on shifts 24 hours a day. Since the patient load was rapidly increasing, and in order to maintain empty beds, all patients requiring treatment over thirty days were evacuated to Japan within 48 to 96 hours after admission. When the patient load became greater, and total casualties remained comparably high, patients requiring treatment over fifteen days were evacuated to Japan. On this trip to Korea, the HAVEN set another record by staying tied to Pier one for 120 consecutive days. During this four month stay, the high patient load was 585, reached on 5 June. The daily approximated 500.

When the HAVEN returned to Pusan on 9 September, a total of 232 patients were admitted in one day, and counting 141 admissions the previous day, a total of 373 patients were admitted during a 48 hour period.

A brief resume of the HAVEN'S part in the Korean campaign indicates that over 8500 patients were admitted to the sick list during the past eleven months in Korean waters. There were twenty-four deaths recorded, but four of these were dead on arrival, and therefore only twenty deaths from all patients admitted to the sick list which is considered to be a remarkable record. A total of approximately 23,000 out-patients were given out-patient treatment or seen in consultation. During a stay of 4½ months at Inchon, 3,000 patients were admitted, while for a period of 5 months in Pusan, a total of over 5,000 patients were admitted. The peak period of an average of 101 admissions per day for eight days was reached during 31 May to 7 June inclusive. During our stay at Pusan, various medical officers of the hospital staff acted as consultants for Korean military hospitals in this area.

OPERATIONS IN JAPANESE AND KOREAN WATERS U. S. S. HAVEN (AH-12)

12 Oct 1950	Arrived for East (Yokosuka, Japan)
15 Oct 1950	Departed Yokosuka, Japan for Inchon, Korea
17 Oct 1950	Entered Korean Waters
18 Oct 1950	Arrived Inchon, Korea at 1600
6 Jan 1951	Departed Inchon, Korea at 1500
8 Jan 1951	Arrived Pusan, Korea at 0130
9 Jan 1951	Departed Pusan, Korea at 1600
12 Jan 1951	Arrived Yokohama, Japan, shifted to Yokosuka, Japan
21 Jan 1951	Departed Yokosuka, Japan at 0800
23 Jan 1951	Arrived Sasebo, Japan at 1700
5 Feb 1951	Departed Sasebo, Japan at 0700
14 Feb 1951	Departed Pusan, Korea for Inchon, Korea at 1100
16 Feb 1951	Arrived Inchon, Korea at 1800
30 Mar 1951	Departed from Inchon, Korea at 1800
1 Apr 1951	Arrived Pusan, Korea at 0800
22 Apr 1951	Departed from Pusan, Korea at 0600
4 Apr 1951	Arrived Yokosuka, Japan at 0800
6 Apr 1951	Shifted to Yokohama, Japan
24 Apr 1951	Departed from Yokohama, Japan at 1400
26 Apr 1951	Arrived Pusan, Korea at 1700
24 Aug 1951	Departed from Pusan, Korea at 2200
27 Aug 1951	Arrived Yokohama, Japan at 1200--to Yokosuka
7 Sep 1951	Departed Yokosuka, Japan at 1500
9 Sep 1951	Arrived Pusan, Korea at 1800
7 Oct 1951	Departed Pusan, Korea
9 Oct 1951	Arrived Yokosuka, Japan

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES RECEIVED BY THE HAVEN ON IT'S DEPARTURE FROM THE FAR EAST

FROM: COMNAVFE

ACTION: U.S.S. HAVEN (AH-12)

COMNAVFE EXPRESSES HIS SINCEREST APPRECIATION FOR YOUR UNTIRING AND DEVOTED SERVICE IN CARE AND EVACUATION OF WOUNDED X YOUR PERFORMANCE HAS CONTRIBUTED IMMEASURABLY TO THE SUCCESS OF UNITED NATIONS EFFORT DURING SOME OF THE MOST CRITICAL PERIODS OF THE PRESENT CONFLICT X VADM C T JOY BT

FROM: COM 7TH FLEET
ACTION: U.S.S. HAVEN (AH-12)
INFO: COMSERVRON 3 / / COMNAVFE

THE HAVEN HAS CARRIED OUT HER MISSION OF SUCCOR TO THE WOUNDED IN AN
EXEMPLARY MANNER X FOR HER MONTHS OF DILIGENT ATTENTIVE SERVICE IN THE
FAR EAST A WELL DONE X MAY HER VOYAGE HOME BE CALM AND PEACEFUL X
VICE ADMIRAL HAROLD M. MARTIN SENDS